

Robin MacGowan, Andrew Margolis, Tony Falvo, Monique Hosein, Jennifer McKeever, Jack Carrel, April Richardson-Moore, Tyler French, James Vergeront, James Stodola. HIV prevention programs for correctional populations. HIV Prevention Programs for Correctional Populations, United States Conference on AIDS, October 23, 2004, Philadelphia, PA.

Objective: To describe and provide results from two CDC funded prevention activities: 1) 4 models for routinely providing voluntary rapid HIV testing in corrections, and 2) a behavioral intervention trial (Project START) for young men released from prison.

Methods: 1) 4 State Health Departments (FL, LA, NY, & WI) developed routine voluntary rapid HIV testing programs for persons in short stay correctional facilities, primarily jails. Programs were designed to accommodate the constraints of the service providers and the correctional facilities. Program evaluation data are collected at time of testing, service referral, and 3 and 6 months after testing. 2) The Project START intervention trial was conducted in CA, MS, RI & WI from 2001 to 2003, and compared a pre-release single-session intervention (SSI), and an enhanced intervention (EI) with 2 sessions before release from prison and 4 after release. Evaluation data were collected before and following release from prison.

Results: 1) Each rapid testing program was initiated within 4 months of the award of the contract. From January through April 2004, over 2000 persons had been provided rapid testing, all were provided with their test results. Very few persons (n=2) initially consented and then refused testing. The overall HIV prevalence is 2%. All reactive rapid tests were followed up with confirmatory tests. Persons with HIV were referred for care, treatment, and prevention services in the facility, the community, or both. 2) The median number of scheduled sessions attended by men in the EI was 5. The EI group reported significantly lower rates of unprotected vaginal/anal sex compared to the SSI (OR 0.40, 95% CI 0.18-0.88).

Conclusions: 1) Rapid HIV testing can be implemented in short-stay correctional facilities to identify persons who are unaware of their infection, and permit referrals of persons to prevention services. 2) Project START is a promising HIV/STI/hepatitis risk reduction intervention for young men being released from prisons.